



# AAND Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Alabama Association of 9-1-1 Districts

Second Quarter 2008

## Taking Inventory...

I was thinking the other day – no wisecracks, before any of you say anything – about how far we’ve come in such a short time. We’ve certainly accomplished a lot together.

It was just four years ago that we established the Alabama Association of 9-1-1 Districts (AAND, for short) to enhance the jobs we all do back home. There were many things we wanted to do, problems we wanted to address, and many felt the establishment of this group would be the best way to accomplish those goals. It has turned out that everyone was right.

We also decided it would be in the best interests of the 9-1-1 districts to link this new group with the Association of County Commissions of Alabama. This decision has also been a key to our success.

Another reason we’ve succeeded has been the membership’s wisdom in selecting its leaders. I’m the fourth person to serve as president of the AAND, following four of the best 9-1-1 professionals in the entire nation — **Art Faulkner, Roger Wilson and Chris Heger**. We have two excellent directors who’ll serve as our next two presidents – **Hunter Simmons and Kristi Stamnes**.

In August, we’ll elect a new board and another officer who’ll step into the rotation and become president in August 2010. We’ll also elect a new board of directors with representatives from each of the districts. I encourage you to get more involved in this Association and to offer yourself as a candidate. We need your ideas, your

expertise, and your input.

Our relationship with our sister organization, NENA, has also served us well in these first four years. As president I have followed the example of the first three AAND leaders and worked closely with the current president of NENA. What we’ve accomplished the last four years is a testimony to the two organizations working together.

It would be difficult to make a complete list of the tangible ways you we can measure success, but a few things do deserve note.

In 2005 the Alabama Legislature considered and eventually passed legislation removing some portions of the telephone business from the review of the Alabama Public Service Commission. We expressed concern about the impact such a decision would have on our revenue – which is tied to the rates charged by the telephone companies.

A bill was introduced late in the session ensuring that our revenue would be protected and making it clear that telephone service provided over the Internet would also be subject to our service fees. That bill was passed and signed into law.

In 2007, another bill was passed increasing the revenue we all receive from the statewide fee on wireless service by about \$6 million per year. The legislation also established a fund to reimburse districts for becoming Phase II compliant by May 2009. At a time when most 9-1-1 districts around

the nation are facing attacks on their revenue sources, the passage of both of these bills is an example of why this organization was established four years ago.

We’ve created a new educational program that provides “certification” to 9-1-1 directors who complete the class work and successfully pass the exams. This program is vitally important to our profession and to our recognition at the local level.

AAND’s role this year with the statewide study commission created to review and make recommendations for the delivery of 9-1-1 services has been essential to our ability to meet the challenges of the future. At this point, the study commission’s recommendations are still being developed, but our representatives **John Ellison, Heather Walton and Art Faulkner** have provided a strong voice for the 9-1-1 districts.

Other issues and problems remain unsolved. But, that’s the good thing about being president of an organization for only one year. If you’re lucky you can contribute a bit to the overall growth of your profession, but you can always leave something for those who are coming behind you.

As my year as president nears its conclusion, I am very proud of what we’ve accomplished in the last four years. And, I am very confident that four years from now, this organization will be even stronger.

*Donnie Smith, President  
Chambers County*

**Alabama Association  
of 9-1-1 Districts  
2007-2008  
Board of Directors**

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President  
Chambers County

**HUNTER SIMMONS**  
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District 3  
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District 5  
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**BILL MEADOWS**  
District 6  
Lee County

**HEATHER WALTON**  
District 7  
Conecuh County

**TINA JONES**  
District 8  
Pike County

**PAST PRESIDENTS**

**CHRISTINE HEGER**  
Baldwin County

**ROGER WILSON**  
Walker County

**ART FAULKNER**  
Homeland Security

**Survey of Emergency Communications Districts**

Legislation was passed in 2007 that created the Alabama Emergency Communications District Long-Range Study Commission. Among the charges of the Commission was to study and report upon the operational, technical and financial issues facing 9-1-1 systems. The Commission quickly discovered that one major obstacle was the lack of information on the 88 Emergency Communication Districts in Alabama.



The Commission promptly drafted a survey to collect information on ECD income, expenses and operational statistics. As of late April, surveys have been received from all but four ECDs, and efforts are underway to attain 100 percent response. The survey data provides the first detailed picture of the state of 9-1-1 in Alabama. This information will ultimately be used as work proceeds on legislation and regulation to implement a Next Generation 9-1-1 system.

The final report of the Commission will include a summary of the data by population categories to avoid confusing or misleading statistics from averaging all 88 ECDs. This format will also allow each ECD to compare their operation and budget to the low, high and average of similar ECDs.

It is greatly important that all the surveys are completed. If you have not yet completed your survey, please do so immediately. If you have questions, please contact **Shelby County 9-1-1 Director John Ellison** at (205) 439-6912 or or by e-mail at [john@shelby9-1-1.org](mailto:john@shelby9-1-1.org).

**SAVE THESE DATES...**

**GENERAL MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION I (June 18-19)** In today's workplace, the 9-1-1 administrator wears many hats: a leader, a manager and a supervisor. This course teaches the basic skills necessary to supervise employees and how to apply many tried- and tested management techniques that will help improve the performance of employees and the functioning of the unit. \$155 - Call 800-634-7199 to register.

**GENERAL MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION II - CHOICE (July 9-10)** A successful Emergency Communication District Administrator not only supervises his staff, but also manages and coordinates county functions and programs while articulating his vision for the county's future. This course provides some of the critical skills necessary to plan, organize and direct the operations of county government under the guidance of the commission. Administrators of 9-1-1 departments will learn how to set an inspired vision with clear goals and motivate and empower people to their best performance. \$155 - Call 800-634-7199 to register.

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE - CHOICE (July 9-10)** This course details the critical role of the 9-1-1 staff in disaster mitigation planning and response. It describes the appropriate pre-disaster planning, what is expected during the disaster, and post-disaster follow-up and documentation. Panelists review an actual disaster and discuss the action taken. \$155 - Call 800-634-7199 to register.

*are you registered?*

# AAND ONE-DAY WORKSHOP

The Alabama Association of 9-1-1 Districts will hold its Annual One-Day Workshop on **Tuesday, July 8, 2008**, at the **Millbrook Civic Center** in Millbrook, Ala. The day will begin at **10 a.m.** and end at **3:30 p.m.** to allow most of our members to drive in that morning and return home that afternoon. However, if you wish to stay in Montgomery or Prattville the night before, we can help you find hotel rooms in the area.

Registration for the workshop is **\$12** per person and includes lunch. **The deadline for registration is Friday, June 20.**

If you have any questions, please contact **Donna Key** at (334) 263-7594 or by e-mail at [dkey@acca-online.org](mailto:dkey@acca-online.org).

## DIRECTIONS TO MILLBROOK CIVIC CENTER...

**From I-65 North:** Exit 176 Millbrook/Coosada. When you exit, keep straight. Stay in left lane after passing first traffic light. When you see the second traffic light, (a park should be on your left) turn left on Grandview Road. Civic Center will be on the left after passing the park.

**From I-65 South:** Exit 181 Wetumpka/Prattville. Turn left off of exit. Drive 1 mile in right lane. Turn right on Grandview Road. Go about 2.5 miles (at stop sign keep straight). Civic Center will be on the right before the traffic light.

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## TENTATIVE AGENDA

		<b>12 - 12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b> ( <i>provided</i> )
<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>Welcome</b> <i>Donnie Smith, AAND President</i>	<b>12:30 - 3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Afternoon General Session</b> In-House GIS
<b>10:15 a.m. - Noon</b>	<b>Morning General Session</b> Examiners Update <i>Mike Scroggins, Chief, County Audits, Alabama Dept. of Examiners of Public Accounts</i>		Study Commission Survey Results
	Next Generation 9-1-1, <i>John Ellison, Director Shelby County 9-1-1</i>	<b>3:30 p.m.</b>	Legislative Update <i>Sonny Brasfield, Assistant Executive Director, ACCA</i>
			<b>Adjourn</b>

## 2008 AAND One-Day Workshop Registration Form

County Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Person Completing Form: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee is **\$12** per person. \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed. **Please do not ask AAND to bill you.**

List the names and titles of those registering for the conference.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return completed form and check payable to AAND by June 20, 2008:  
AAND • 100 N. Jackson Street • Montgomery, Ala. 36104 • Fax: (334) 263-7678**

## Have You Visited the Web Site Lately?

If you haven't visited ACCA's Web site, [www.acca-online.org](http://www.acca-online.org), lately, then you don't know what you're missing!

We know you have been responding to ACCA's "call-to-action" e-mails during this legislative session, and there is still one official meeting day left before this session is over. The *Weekly Updates* and status information about ACCA's legislation package is continuously updated under the **Legislative News** section of the Web site. But, the site is so much more...and it should be so much more to you, our members!

Each Affiliate Member group has its own member page under the tab of **Affiliate Groups** in the top menu bar. Here, AAND members will find a wealth of information pertinent to you, as members and as county 9-1-1 directors. Not only does this page contain a listing of your AAND board of directors and your bylaws, it also lists links to your District Map and an updated Phase II Map.

Another important thing to note is that not all of Alabama's 9-1-1 directors are members of AAND. The Membership link can allow each member to help encourage other directors to join the group. There truly is strength in numbers, so if you know of any 9-1-1 directors who are not yet members, please help us to bring them into the family.

Your section of the Web site contains many documents that are of special interest to 9-1-1 administrators, and ACCA staff will continue to build upon this page as more information becomes available. As information is posted, we send e-mails to all AAND members that new information is available online – another benefit of membership!

But, ACCA's Web site contains much more information that you may not have yet seen. One of the most important pieces of legislation that ACCA helped to pass was the new *Open Meetings Law*, which took effect on Oct. 1, 2005. This law greatly amended and defined a "public meeting" in Alabama. What was once vague and grossly misunderstood is now greatly outlined in a convenient, easy-to-understand manual that you can download by using the link on the Home Page.

Education is perhaps one of the most popular topics discussed, especially this time of year. There are two sections in which groups may find educational opportunities to attend. Under the **Conferences and Events** tab are listings of all ACCA-sanctioned events for 2008. These events include conferences for most of ACCA's affiliate groups, and if the items are linkable, click

the links for more information about registration and hotel information. Under the **Education Courses** tab are those ACCA-sanctioned classes that are offered through the UPACE partnership. These classes are offered for CE credits, and participants must register for these classes through the instructions provided.

Another tab that web-goers may find useful and entertaining is the **Publications** tab. This section holds two very interesting publications: *ACCA's 2015 Task Force Report* and the *8th Edition of Comparative Data on Alabama's Counties*. Both publications have been distributed to your county commission's office, but if you haven't received a copy for your office, please log on and download one.

Also under the Publications tab, click on *The County Commissioner*, ACCA's official magazine. Here, you will find articles from previous issues by **ACCA Executive Director Buddy Sharpless, Assistant Executive Director Sonny Brasfield, Staff Attorney Mary Pons** and past presidents.

The Web site can be an incredible wealth of information for you, but remember...whenever you have questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to give us a call at (334) 263-7594!

## MILESTONES

- Congratulations to **Director Christine Heger and Baldwin County 9-1-1!** On Thursday, May 15, the Baldwin County program will observe its 20th anniversary. On May 15, 1988, Baldwin County 9-1-1 took its first emergency call from the public, and has been going strong ever since!
- Congratulations to **Calhoun County 9-1-1!** On, Thursday, May 8, Calhoun County 9-1-1 received its 1,000,000 emergency call. The Calhoun County office has been online since March 1989 with **9-1-1 Director Jerry Jackson** at the helm the entire time.

If your 9-1-1 program has an upcoming milestone, we want to hear about it! Please contact Lori Quiller, director of public relations, at (334) 263-7594, or by e-mail at [lquiller@acca-online.org](mailto:lquiller@acca-online.org).